Dear Sylvia, 11/26/74

Thanks for your kind note I appreciate it as Jim will.

There will be no "unsold" copies, either way, as I'll explain both ways. First because Jim borrowed the money to pay the printer (and we each had other and considerable costs) and because he had paid something close to $200 in interest before we could bring the book out, we agreed to restrict ourselves to so few personal copies, those provided by my last commercial contract, that we don't either have enough for our families. And I'm actually being paid for a fair percentage of the press copies. Including for the two that did most good.

Our only freebees were to Paul, who did the Ford comparison for me, and to Howard, who actually came here and did the pasting up for me when I showed him how to do the waxing so I could continue with other work. Howard also edited what I wrote is too great haste. (I am accumulating an enormous store of the new and unpublished in several fields, not only the JFK assassination- Watergate, too.) I regret I had to write so fast. There simply was no choice. Printer's gremlins and other work, like the Ray case, delayed appearance of the book several months. Jim and I did our writing promptly.

There also will be no unsold copies because I'm still selling the old books. Interest has been greater for the past 13-14 months than at any time since Garrison started. (Good sign for Howard's book, which is mechanically delayed. He has also contracted his Cold War book.) Whitewash remains the best seller. The tragedy is that your book isn't available. I had to write a student, a girl who is going to become a lawyer, that the only was I know she can get a copy is to xerox it and she can do it with mine. In fact, because I wanted the local woman's college to have yours, I loaned them mine for them to xerox. The other works, I hope you will agree, are without real value. But I am anxious for yours to be available to all the new generation. If you ever hear of any copies not sold let me know. (I obtained all the remaindered Frame-Ups by contract but only after the publisher started seeing to it that they all disappeared.)

AP called me twice so perhaps it filed two stories. That in the NYTimes 11/23 begins as does the typed wire copy I have but it ends differently. Perhaps the Times made the changes. It's version eliminates the credit to Jim I saw to it was in the first story. It is replaced by the last 4 grafs. The original AP copy was on the wire too late for even the late Times of 11/23, 11-22-74 02.42 aed, so the AP may have changed the story for second-day a.m. use.

In any event, I want you to know that as soon as they chickened out, and there are reasons other than suggested in the book, the first thing I did was call Jim and ask that he and Bud come up and with another lawyer all three read independtly. Richbitch Bud would not advance the money to pay the printer, so Jim, who has been doing Bud's work free for years, did what I can't again dare at my age, borrowed. Then, immediately deppite promises of confidentiality because of the dangers of misuse, Bud started leaking. It hurt in many ways and wasted time neither Jim nor I had besides costing us several hundred dollars while we were confronted with the very real possibility of misuse. As you know, I never go public in such matters, but I do want you to know.

While I'm writing, please let me ask a favor, a diplomatic effort on your part.

Thomas Starna started writing me. Crazy stuff, but he is arrogant about it. I've spent hours trying to quiet him down, to prevent misuse of what must appear in context, to keep him from calling attention to probabilities of misuse which can also kill important work on which I've never stopped trying to do something about publishing. He has special interpretations of what he neither understands nor wants to. I suppose they fit his beliefs so actuality becomes irrelevant. I finally lost my temper with him. He was bludgeoning me with childish and self-important letters. I tried to answer calmly and that didn't work. Then in anger and that didn't. Finally I ignored him, still worried about what his big mouth and self-concept might do. (Remember Cyril?) I have never stopped trying to do something with Post Mortem and there is as of this minute another effort. Aside from this, he is personally insulting. In today's mail there is a note, very short and personally offensive regardless of what he had in mind, again asking for a copy of IV. I'd told him I'd send it when it was available and actually I sent it when I did yours. I have to address envelopes

myself, as you saw. I do this when I rest from other work or watch the a.m. and p.m. news. Would you, for example, want me to not do other work that nobody else is doing just to address envelopes? In addition, I just didn t have any copies of the book. The printer judt didn't deliver them. We got them by simply not paying the remainder of his bill. I did mail as fast a s I could. Really. And even Jim, who is doing all the real legal work on the Ray/King case, with a close deadline, is doing what he can.

The last thing we want or need is nagging.

I have no doubt about Thomas' intentions, even if he is a little holier than the pope. But he is latched to the past and the captive if a longing he can't satisfy. Please try to persuade him - and please don't invoke the first amendment - to just be content to enjoy his retirement and run no risk of being counterproductive. (His recentletter to The Tatler would sicken him if he understood it but he thought it was great.)

And if there is any way you can do it without offending him, please ask him just not to write me. I don't want to offend him by ignoring him. I don't want to insult him. But when I am today the only one working full-time (and now it is from sheer weariness and the accumulation of 61 years down to a mere 18 hours). Should I have to take time to either reason with him or answer questions that were dated almost a decade ago?

There are other things I just don't have time for. Problems you need not know. But when the baddies make them the adrenalin flows and they are met. When a Thomas makes them (and he is not unique!) then it merely depresses and interfers with work. There are so many! If you can reduce it by one the contribution will be great.

As you can see, there is no self-publicizing from Jim or me. (The Village Voice thing was a backgrounder preparatory to his interviewing me by phone on the Ray situation. What he was supposed to have done hasn't happened yet but making one of us human hasn't hurt.) We merely want to be left alone to do work nobody else is doing. It may not make headlines but it does some good. The override of the Fordveto on FOI is one. The amending of FOI is another. There is a new legal precedent in the Ray case. An out-of-date ego ought not intrude. And there were some problems from Paul. Hopefully at least temporarily over.

Had it not been for other "gremlins" in the post office, Martin Waldron would have written the Times' story on this new book. In three weeks it hadn't reached him. We have become friends. When in Memphis he saw I needed a bit of easing off he took me out on a party the night the case in chief was over. But let me delight you (I hope) a little with a few comments from this jaundiced giant of a man (350 lbs easily) We had not met previously. We'd spoken but once.

Half way through the first week of the hearing he drew me aside during an a.m. court break to ask, "Harold, aren't you ashamed of yourself?" So, I asked why. "For fuckin' up the FBI, the State of Tennessee and Shelby County?" The last day, when he invited, he came up to me, gave me a bear hug- we had just kidnapped the last of the state's rebuttal witnesses, <u>having missed not a one</u> - and as I was lighting up said simply, "Harold you old bastard, don't you know what overkill is?"

This is the kind of record Jim and I have made. Record and justice are not necessarily one. Jim is working nightily now because the burden is on him. As Bud was vacationing when Jim and I went down and fought the whole state and local establishment on unprecedented discovery for which Jim can't be given too much credit, so is Bud now away until <u>after</u> the final papers save for rebuttal must be filed. Now I can help him only so much.

These are the realities. We are trying, we are succeeding if you see no great, black headlines. If we can only be let alone we can do so much more!

Agains thanks for the kidness. Wish I had time for more explanations. Hope you are well.

Sincerely,